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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 21 | Humidity 69% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 80,429 | Nifty 24,479 | Gold 68,580 | Silver 84,831 | Dollar 83.69 | Euro 90.79 | GBP 108.03

BOOMERANG EFFECT

Woman targeted after complaining to BBMP on violation of building bye laws

PAGE 3

POWERFUL BILL

Consumers who qualify for free electricity who surpass allotted units by 10 or more must pay Additional Security Deposit

PAGE 7

BBMP okays guidelines that could coax resident welfare associations to facilitate better lives for community animals and pets: assignment of feeding spots, no relocation among key highlights

RULES OF COEXISTENCE

By-laws created by RWAs must not contain any points that can cause pain to animals

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has given a green signal to a set of guidelines for resident welfare associations (RWAs) and apartment owners on the management of community animals – pets or street dogs and cats.

The Palike came up with the common guideline after its Animal Husbandry Department received countless complaints over the last few months from pet owners and community animal caretakers about RWAs arm-twisting residents by bringing in unauthorised rules, by-laws, and stipulations.

As per the rules, a copy of which is with BM, by-laws created by RWAs must not contain any points that can cause pain and discomfort to community animals. It further states that resident associations cannot ban community animals (pets, stray dogs, and cats) from using common areas and lifts. Moreover, pets cannot be banned in any residential layout or society and no pets can be forced to use a muzzle, and

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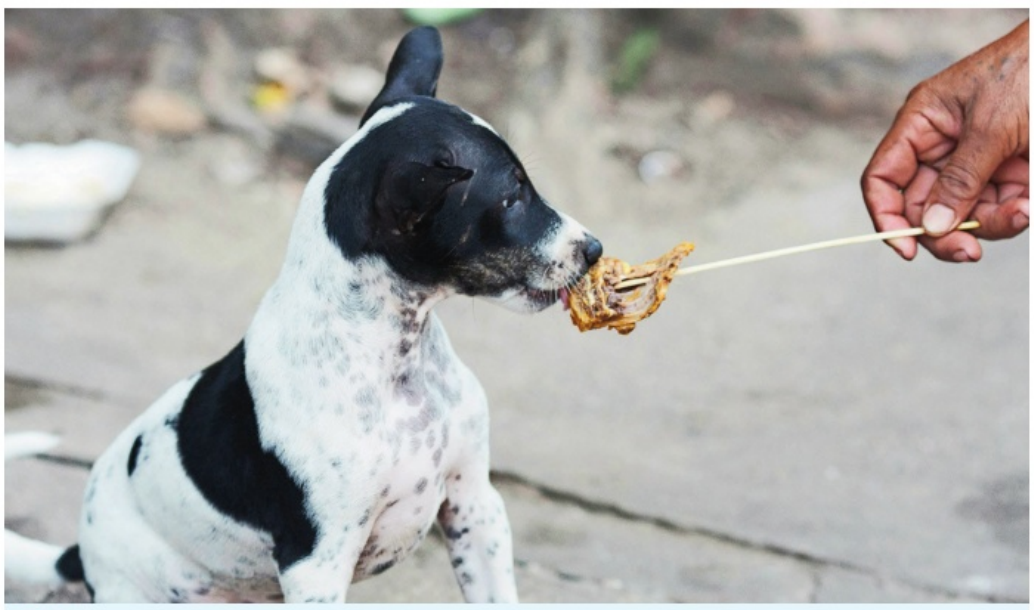

“ Our guidelines are just a simplified version of rules and laws mentioned in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023. We are emailing the document to all RWAs across the city, and they are expected to follow these rules in letter and spirit

— Suralkar Vikas Kishore, Special Commissioner (Health), BBMP

On a dangerous road

9.5% of city’s fatal accidents reported from airport road

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The traffic situation on Bengaluru’s International Airport Road has become increasingly alarming, with a significant increase in fatal accidents. The Traffic Department’s review revealed that 9.5% of all fatal road accidents in the city during 2023 occurred on this stretch. In the first four months of 2024, there were 30 fatal accidents, averaging seven per month. However, the implementation of a speed limit led to a 50% reduction, with only seven accidents reported in May and June combined.

To tackle speeding, automated cameras were installed on the International Airport Road on May 14, 2024. Since then, 30,623 cases have been registered, and fines amounting to Rs. 8,46,000 have been collected. These cases are pursued under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, with notices sent to violators instructing them to pay the fines as per Section 133 2.2.6 of the Act.

Home Minister G Parameshwara highlighted speeding as the primary cause of accidents, along with the lack of pedestrian facilities and high railings that hinder safe crossing. Authorities have identified 11 high-risk locations, known as ‘black spots’ on the International Airport Road, including Jakkur Flyover, Yelahanka IAF, Yelahanka Cafe Day, Palanahalli Gate, Betta Halasuru Gate, Hunasamaranahalli Gate,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

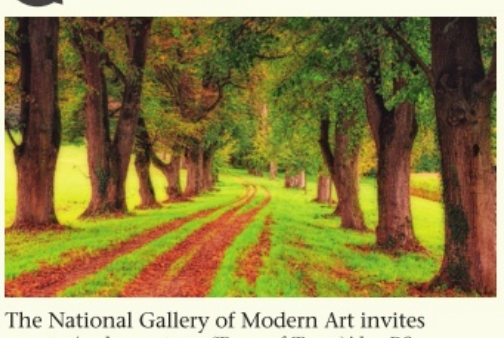
01 Satirical comedy

Watch 'Natydeva-charite,' a play that revolves around a rich man who becomes vulnerable to a fake imposter guru pretending to be pious and religious. It aims to entertain while shedding light on the dangers of blindly trusting those who manipulate religious appearances for personal gain. Through its mix of comedy and drama, the play unfolds a tale that prompts the audience to reflect on the consequences of misplaced trust and the humorous aspects of religious hypocrisy. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: July 24, 7:30 pm**

02 Rustling silks

Explore the intricate textile works and handwoven weaves from Champa, Chhattisgarh, with 'Rustling Silks' by Rema Kumar. Her popular 'Gehna' collection, named for its jewel tones in a twill weave, is also part of the vibrant range showcased at Ambara. From saris, dupattas, and stoles to hand-painted geometric hand block prints and a limited edition of kurta fabrics in hand-blocked silk cottons, each piece is unique, brought together in Rema's distinctive style.
Where: Ambara, Ulsoor Lake;
When: July 24 to July 27

03 Tree tour



The National Gallery of Modern Art invites you to 'ar-bo-re-tum (Tour of Trees)' by BS Chandrashekar, Scientist-E, Institute of Wood Science & Technology (IWST). Be a part of a 'Sketchnoting' workshop, part of the arboretum walk, ideated to make the walk more interesting and inclusive. It gives a more hands-on experience and brings a different perspective on understanding nature and trees.
Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; When: July 25, 3:30 pm

It is time to go back to school

BBMP plans to conduct survey to identify out-of-school children, integrate them into mainstream education system

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Education Department is set to conduct a door-to-door survey to identify children who are not attending school in the city. This initiative aims to bring these out-of-school children into the mainstream education system. Utilising an app developed by the Centre for e-Governance, the survey will collect data on the number of such children in each ward.

It will span various locations, including residential areas, industrial sites, construction sites, public places like bus and railway stations, religious centres, orphanages, prisons, hospitals, hotels, cinemas, and small-scale industries such as brick kilns and matchstick factories.

A pilot survey will begin in the Subhash Nagar ward of the Gandhi Nagar assembly constituency, encompassing around 10,000 households. Tenders have been invited, and numerous organisations have shown interest in conducting the survey, as the BBMP issued a notification for the same.

This will enable the BBMP to determine the number of such children in each ward and take the necessary steps for their enrollment in schools. This initiative is in compliance with the High Court's 2019 directive, which instructed the BBMP to conduct this survey to ensure that all children in the city attend school.

The survey will span various locations, including residential areas, construction sites, small-scale industries, and others

Plan & instructions

The BBMP plans to survey approximately 30 lakh households at an estimated cost of around Rs 3 crore and has set a rate of Rs 10 per household for the survey. A pilot survey will be conducted first in the Gandhi Nagar assembly constituency to resolve any issues before expanding the survey to other wards.

Likewise, the organisation conducting the survey will receive Rs 10 for each surveyed household. Survey participants must have passed SSLC (10th standard) and possess a minimum team of 30 members. The confidentiality of the collected information is crucial, and surveyors must be proficient in using smartphones, as mandated by the BBMP.

A pilot survey will be first conducted in Gandhi Nagar constituency assembly to resolve any issues before expanding survey to other wards

City records 3.3k dengue cases this month

The number of dengue cases in the city continues to rise, with an average of 150 to 160 new cases per day, as reported by BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath. Since July 1, a total of 3,304 cases have been recorded. "It has been suggested that all zones should work effectively to control dengue fever. Zonal commissioners should hold daily meetings with health department officials to monitor the situation," the chief commissioner said. In areas with high dengue cases, the Chief Commissioner has advised providing citizens with mosquito repellent creams and neem oil. Furthermore, efforts should be made to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds and increase fogging and insecticide spraying. Senior officials from each zone are expected to visit hospitals to assess treatment facilities and the number of reported cases. "Action should be taken against hospitals that charge excessively, violating government orders."

Flightless no more: Vets to learn 'imping' techniques

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Over 2,865 birds were rescued by the PfA Wildlife Rescue & Conservation Centre in 2023, of which 700 suffered some form of injury to their wings, causing them to lose feathers and rendering them flightless. Anyone working in the urban wildlife conservation space knows that being flightless for a flight-capable bird is essentially a death sentence.

In the wild, a flightless bird can succumb to a predator or starvation. Even if rescued on time, administered proper veterinary aid, it can take anywhere between six and 12 months for its feathers to grow back, during which the bird can lose its natural instincts and the chances of its survival in the wild reduce significantly. As bleak as this situation might seem, we find a ray of hope in a feather implantation procedure called 'imping,' a blend of ancient falconry techniques and modern veterinary science. The benefits of imping cannot be understated, as the recovery period, which could last a year, drops to just under three days. There have even been cases where an imped bird was able to recover within a mere 24 hours.

In order to share this life-saving technique with veterinarians everywhere, PfA Bengaluru is holding a workshop for veterinarians and veterinary students titled "Feathered Anew" on August 3. The workshop will be conducted by highly qualified wildlife veterinarians and will include a tour of their in-house feather bank along with a live imping demonstration. "Over the years, veterinarians here at PfA Bengaluru have perfected the technique of imping. This workshop is our way of spreading knowledge and giving back to the field of veterinary science," said Colonel Dr Navaz Shariff, Chief Wildlife Veterinarian at PfA Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Centre.

The Vet Team at PFA has performed 186 imping procedures in last 5 years

The Vet Team at PfA has performed 186 imping procedures in the last five years, namely for peacocks, barn owls, black kites, brahminy kites, spotted owlets, shikra, eagle owls, peafowls, and parakeets. "In theory, imping is a simple matter of collecting naturally fallen feathers of a particular species of bird and carefully implanting them onto the injured bird of the same species that has lost its feathers. But in practice lies the complexity. The first hurdle is to gather donor feathers that are not only in one piece but also the right size to fit the injured bird. To this end, PfA Bengaluru has established a "Feather Bank" within its premises to collect fallen feathers of as many bird species as possible and sort them by size for easy access," he said.

This is an extremely delicate and tedious process, but the result is a literal second wind in life. "With the right tools, technique, and qualified personnel, what used to be a death sentence can now be transformed into a real fighting chance of survival for birds with wing injuries," said Dr Madhav HV, a senior wildlife veterinarian. One dedicated animal activist, Gowri Shivayogi, has been religiously collecting feathers from parks and surrounding areas in and around Vijaynagar and supplementing the Feather Bank at PfA.

Masked plates: You may hide, but police will seek you out

In an attempt to curb the traffic violations in the city, the Bengaluru City police have launched special drives to find those masking their vehicle number plates.

A senior police official said that young individuals in Bengaluru are engaging in reckless behaviour on motorcycles and scooters, such as riding without number plates or concealing them, hindering public vehicles, disregarding road markings, and flouting traffic regulations.

When confronted by the public, these offenders resort to verbal abuse and flee the scene. Consequently, citizens are lodging complaints against the perpetrators on BTP and various social media platforms.

To address this issue, a dedicated team has been assembled under the supervision of the police inspector, tasked with taking stringent action against the violators.

Narrating one such instance, he said, "On July 18 at 4:30 pm, a scooter rider with two youths sitting behind him was found obstructing public vehicles, not following road lines, and violating traffic rules.

When questioned, they abused the public and fled.

The vehicle and its rider were caught by the staff and brought to the police station. Action has been taken against the rider, and a fine has been imposed."

Police say that the public is actively contributing to the identification and penalization of traffic rule violators by capturing videos using dash cameras installed in their vehicles and mobile phone cameras.

These videos are being shared on social media platforms and the Public Eye portal, enabling them to take swift action against the offenders. The Bengaluru City Traffic Police are diligently imposing fines on such violators.

This drive is being conducted under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic West Division, and the leadership of the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Vijayanagar Traffic Sub-Division, and the Police Inspector, Kamakshipalya Traffic Police Station, and his team. **BMB**

Cautionary tale: Clash over building bye laws complaint

Reporting construction work in residential area brought legal troubles, shock & confusion for this B'luru resident

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The construction of a godown adjacent to Ambujakshi's house in Vajrahalli

Are you one of those residents in the city who want to alert or caution the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) about the construction of structures for commercial purposes in residential areas? While your purpose and objective may be to ensure the residents live in a calm atmosphere, you may have to be ready to face the consequences not only from those violating the building bye laws but also from the BBMP engineers who are supposed to protect whistle-blowers and punish the violators.

This is one such story of Ambujakshi SN, a resident of Hemmigepura Ward, Bengaluru South, who never expected to face problems for complaining against the construction of a cement and steel godown on the vacant site adjacent to her house.

Last May, Ambujakshi complained regarding the construction to the BBMP assistant executive engineer of Hemmigepura ward. Following which, a notice was sent to the site owner, and the work was stopped. However, she received a different response this time around when the work resumed recently. "The engineer was angry when I informed him about the re-commencement of the construction work. He told me that he could not keep a vigil around the clock on the site owner," she said.

However, she was shocked when the BBMP assistant executive engineer issued a notice on July 22 stating that she had violated the building bye laws while constructing the building, which was found during the inspection of buildings in the ward. "We constructed the building seven years ago. There were no problems from the BBMP for the alleged violation of building bye laws all these years. The assistant executive engineer issued a violation notice only after I informed him about the construction of an illegal structure on the site adjacent to my house," she lamented.

Furthermore, a police constable from the jurisdictional police station summoned her to come to the police station as there is a complaint against her for obstructing the construction of a structure. "I did not damage the construction material or cause harm to anyone. It is not clear why the local police are involved in this matter," she said

Meanwhile, BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer Guru Prasad said, "I told the site owner to commence the construction work after getting a plan sanctioned from the BBMP authorities. As far as the notice to Ambujakshi is concerned, I issued the notice to her based on a complaint from a resident. I have asked her to produce a copy of the approved plan for constructing the building. We have the power to demand a copy of the plan even for 50-year-old buildings."

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Lake in distress; locals pitch revamp ideas

Residents of AECS Layout and walkers propose suggestions to BBMP for fixing power issues, contamination, broken equipment, maintenance problems at Chinnappanahalli

Above: Broken equipment at the play area requires repairs; Below: File photo showing the removal of dried leaves and twigs

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Walkers of Chinnappanahalli and residents of the AECS Layout ward have submitted suggestions to the BBMP Lakes team for improving Chinnappanahalli Lake. According to the group, implementing these suggestions could reduce the annual maintenance costs and provide a permanent solution to the ongoing issues with the lake.

The members suggested connecting the Kalyani outlet to the Underground Drainage to permanently address the stagnant, contaminated water, ensuring it is managed 24/7. They also recommended replacing broken equipment to ensure the safety of children playing. These issues have persisted for over 5 years.

Indira Belde, a regular walker, highlighted that most of the lakes lack power connections. Although toilets have been constructed, they are missing essential features such as overhead tanks, power for pumping water, regular maintenance, and nameplates.

They further suggested that regular trimming and pruning of shrubs, plants, and trees are necessary, along with the removal of dried trees and weeding. Overgrown tree branches currently obstruct walkers and occasionally cause injuries. Proper maintenance would help improve safety and accessibility in the area.

Repairing the outer perimeter fencing is essential to protect the lake premises from intruders. Additionally, ensuring proper connectivity of the Rajakaluve to the two inlets, one from the Bhagmane premises and the other from Survey Number. 17 and Survey Number. 78 is needed.

"This apart, there should be cleaning and regular maintenance of the UGD chamber near the Gazebo, which overflows every three months. It is necessary to identify the root cause and permanently solve the issue. This sewage overflow is consistently entering the lake, posing a problem. CCTV Camera installation at the entrance is important as well, so we can keep an eye on miscreants" added Belde.

> **"There should be cleaning & regular maintenance of the UGD chamber. It is important to find the root cause for its overflow** – Indira Belde, citizen

Additionally, there should be further checks on the sewage water mixing through the inlet from Chinnappanahalli Main Road or overflowing from the chambers along the walking track. The walkers suggested that regular tests of the lake's water quality are necessary to determine appropriate actions.

No more conflict over community animals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pet parents cannot be coerced through direct or indirect methods to let go, abandon, or cage their pets in any situation.

The guidelines also underline that RWAs should facilitate the assignment of feeding spots to feed street dogs/cats inside the premises without any form of harassment or intimidation to the caretakers.

"In case no feeders come forward in their premises, then associations are recommended to identify a feeder externally and allow them to feed the dogs/cats in the premises as per the Animal Birth Control 2023 rules," noted the guidelines.

Do not relocate

It also clarifies that street dogs or cats living in the premises of any gated community or layouts cannot be relocated or moved out, post-construction of the facility. Moreover, dogs picked for neutering cannot be released outside the gated campus and must be dropped back in their original location from where they were caught. Scaring, chasing, or threatening animals using sticks, through security or facility agencies is considered an act of cruelty and is punishable. "Relocation of community animals, depriving them access to food, water, or shelter, killing or maiming them, and any other act that can cause them distress is illegal and a punishable offense under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960," noted the Palike. Residents associations have also been given the responsibility to coordinate with BBMP to collar, deworm, vaccinate, and neuter all stray dogs living inside their premises. RWAs are also supposed to conduct awareness about animals' rights and laws, apart from putting up appropriate signage and advisories in common areas and feeding spots to avoid any untoward incidents.

"Associations are to take positive steps within the gambit of law to reduce conflicts between residents over community animals by opting for peaceful mediation. Willful hatemongering and fear-mongering in matters about pets and animal society groups should be discouraged by the associations. Security agencies must be trained on community animal behavior to be able to coach residents while they are in common areas," noted the document.

According to Suralkar Vikas Kishore, Special Commissioner (Health), BBMP, failure to adhere to these common guidelines will be met with legal action against erring RWAs.

"Our guidelines are just a simplified version of rules and laws mentioned in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023. We are emailing the document to all RWAs across the city, and they are expected to follow these rules in letter and spirit. Failure to follow will attract legal action as prescribed under PCA and ABC rules," said Kishore.

Animal welfare workers have lauded this step.

"Elaborate guidelines at the local body level are a necessity and a welcome move as the local municipal body is responsible for implementing & enforcing animal laws at the ground level in coordination with the police department. Now that there is clarity on roles and responsibilities, do's and don'ts for all citizen groups, I am positive that we are heading in the right direction towards making coexistence a reality in Bengaluru," said Sadhana Hegde, founder of Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust, the NGO that helped BBMP in formulating the document along with the consultation of various citizen groups.

Rules for pet owners

The document also has a set of rules to be followed by residents with animal companions. Pets must always be on a leash while taking walks in common areas. Pet owners are also supposed to proactively declare the number of pets they own, if any, to the association. "Pets must be cleaned and groomed from time to time, dewormed and defleaed, vaccinated and neutered. All up-to-date health records should be sent to the associations. Pets should not be caged or leashed or left on balcony or at places where there is no cover from extreme weather conditions," noted the document. While associations can reach out to BBMP in case of dog bite incidents involving community dogs, community animal caretakers and pet parents can notify BBMP on 1533 in case of violations of these rules.

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Littered path

Cubbon Road

Behind the stadium, the access road from Cubbon Road to MG Road is littered with garbage and smells bad. Stadium authorities don't clean up after cricket matches, making the area unhygienic.

Broken sidewalk

Brigade Road

The sidewalk on Brigade Road is in bad shape and dangerous for pedestrians.

Risky zone

Venkatachary Nagar

Construction materials block the sidewalk at 56, 3rd Main Road, Railway Colony, Venkatachary Nagar. The area is abandoned and attracts snakes during the monsoon.

Separate security force

The bill proposes the creation of a dedicated security force for GBA. This force will be tasked with safeguarding municipal assets, preventing revenue loss, and addressing bylaw violations. The GBA will hold quarterly meetings chaired by either the Chief Minister or the Minister responsible. Additionally, the bill suggests establishing a distinct executive committee to carry out the decisions made during these meetings. This committee will be led by the Minister for Bengaluru Development or a Minister appointed by the Chief Minister, with the Chief Executive serving as the member secretary.

5 or 10 corporations?

The BBMP restructuring report, submitted five years ago, recommended the formation of five councils and 400 ward divisions. This proposal was approved by the government. To implement these recommendations, a bill needs to be drafted. According to Clause 1 of the bill, up to 10 councils could be established. However, the government has decided to proceed with the formation of only five councils, as advised by the committee members.

Chief Commissioner for GBA

Unlike the current setup with a Chief Commissioner for BBMP, the bill proposes the establishment of a Chief Commissioner for the GBA. This Chief Commissioner will be an officer no lower than the rank of Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, with a tenure of three years. The Chief Commissioner will serve as the principal executive officer of the GBA, overseeing its supervision and control. Each corporation within the GBA will have a Commissioner at the rank of Principal Secretary, with a two-year tenure.

The Commissioner will be responsible for supervising and directing the Joint Commissioners and other subordinate officers, coordinating between the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Council, and Ward Committees. Additionally, the Government will appoint a Joint Commissioner for each zone, who will be of Joint Secretary rank. This Joint Commissioner will act as the nodal authority for civic administration, overseeing and coordinating the ward committees, and executing functions as directed by the Commissioner or Mayor.

Move over BBMP, Greater Bengaluru Authority is here

Bill clears way for BBMP to be replaced by multiple corporations

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The State Government has decided to restructure Bengaluru City administration into multiple divisions. According to the proposed Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) bill presented on Monday, Bengaluru could be divided into up to 10 corporations, although the exact number is yet to be finalised.

The bill proposes that for every one million residents, one city municipal council can be formed, encompassing between 50 and 200 wards. Given a population density of 5,000 people per sq km, each council could cover an area of up to 200 sq km. The current jurisdiction of BBMP is 708 sq km, but the proposed GBA jurisdiction will expand to approximately 1,400 sq km. This expansion will include highly developed areas like Electronic City.

3-tier administration

The State Government plans to implement a three-tier administrative system for the city, consisting of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), City Council, and Ward Committees. This new structure will include roles such as the Mayor, Commissioners, Joint Commissioners, Standing Committee, Zonal Committee, Ward Committee, and Area Sabha. The GBA will oversee major infrastructure projects, including flyovers, express elevated roads, arterial and sub-arterial road construction and maintenance, rainwater drainage systems, drinking water supply, and sewage systems. Additionally, the authority will have the power to determine property tax rates, announce rebates, and recommend new taxes to the government. Most administrative powers will be centralised within the GBA.

CM to head GBA

The GBA will be chaired by the Chief Minister, with the Urban Development Minister and the Bangalore Development Minister serving as Vice Chairpersons. The Chief Secretary of the GBA will act as the Member Secretary. The authority will also include key officials such as the Home Minister, Urban Development Minister, Transport Minister, Energy Minister, and MLAs from the Greater Bangalore area. Additional members will comprise the Mayors of municipal corporations, two nominated members from each municipal corporation, the BDA Commissioner, BWSSB Chairman, BMTC MD, BMRCL MD, Bescom MD, Bangalore City Police Commissioner, Bangalore Solid Waste Management Director, GBA's Chief Town Planner, Principal Chief Engineer, and Directors of Fire and Emergency Services.

BDA wings to be clipped

After the formation of the GBA, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) will no longer have the authority to approve land use and development maps; it will solely focus on project implementation. The GBA will be responsible for deciding the allocation of funds released by the state government to various municipalities. The bill establishing the GBA was drafted based on a report submitted in July by a committee led by BS Patil, the former Chief Secretary of the government. The committee, formed to reform the Greater Bangalore Municipal Corporation, included retired IAS officer Siddaiah and urban expert V Ravichandar. Their report served as the foundation for the bill. The GBA will encompass several key entities, including the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom), BDA, and the Metro among other city-related departments. These entities will function under the umbrella of the Joint Bengaluru Authority (JBA).

5-year Mayoral term

Currently, the term of the Mayor for the BBMP is one year, and many have complained that it is insufficient. The new corporations proposed under the GBA will extend the Mayor's term to five years. Under the GBA, the city council formed after the municipal election will elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in their first meeting, with both officials serving a five-year term. Additionally, each city council will establish six standing committees: the Administration, Education, and Social Justice Standing Committee; the Taxation, Revenue, and Accounts Standing Committee; the Public Works and Engineering Standing Committee; the Public Health and Natural Disaster Management Standing Committee; the Forest, Environment, Lakes, and Horticulture Standing Committee; and the Urban Planning and Infrastructure Standing Committee. Each committee will consist of five members, who will be elected by the councilors.

₹ UNION Budget 2024

> The demands we made from the state and the promises she gave were not fulfilled. We had allocated Rs 5,000 crore for Kalyana Karnataka. We had requested matching funds for this, but they were not provided either
>
> – Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

FKCCI praises budget focus on jobs & MSMEs

Union's four-pillar approach plan supports skilling, small businesses, extended Mudra Loans, revised loan schemes

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

New budget boosts MSME support with enhanced credit and loan schemes

The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FKCCI) has stated that the Union Budget has established a four-pillar approach to promote rapid economic development, focusing on employment, skilling, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and the middle class. FKCCI president Ramesh Chandra Lahoti noted that capital expenditure remains at Rs 11.11 lakh crore and the fiscal deficit is projected at 4.9% for 2025.

"The FKCCI welcomes the Union Budget-2024-25 which is focused on bringing a balance between reforms and populism. We appreciate the significant push towards improving the Financial Health and borrowing ability of MSMEs. The Government has focused on the ELI (Employee Linked Incentive) Scheme along with production-linked incentives. We welcome the efforts towards boosting employment opportunities by giving wage benefits for first-time workers through Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, additional thrust to skilling, industrial training on the hub and spoke model, and additional support for loans up to Rs10 Lakh for higher education. This helps in achieving the Viksit Bharat goal in a faster manner," said Ramesh Chandra Lahoti.

He said that by allowing public sector banks to come up with an alternative credit rating mechanism, the budget has reduced the excessive reliance on Credit Information Bureau India Limited (CIBIL) which the industry community has always challenged on various grounds as it leads to non-availability of loans. "In certain circumstances, the Budget also gave room for banks to extend credit to stressed MSMEs in the special mention accounts (SMA) category due to external circumstances," he said.

The FKCCI president expressed satisfaction with the Mudra Loans limit extension to Rs 20 lakh, noting it will benefit small proprietary businesses, partnership firms, and micro entities. "The biggest relief is the abolishment of Angel Tax, which was creating havoc in the startup circles with uncertainty and additional compliance burdens," he said.

Pronounced policy vision: KASSIA

Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) president MG Rajagopal hailed the Union Budget 2024-25 as a pronounced policy vision statement that will encourage and empower the MSMEs.

"The credit guarantee scheme with a substantial cover of up to Rs 100 crore for MSMEs in the manufacturing sector is a much-needed step towards facilitating easier access to finance, promoting investments in machinery, and enhancing productivity," said Rajagopal.

He further added, "The commitment to upgrade 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in hub & spoke arrangements over the next five years underscores the government's focus on enhancing skill development."

He stated the proposal to open 24 branches of the Small Industries Development Bank of India will also help to extend credit for MSMEs, which is a big relief for small-scale industries.

Slabs relaxed for new regime only

The Indian government is encouraging salaried employees to adopt the new tax regime through various measures introduced in the latest budget. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a 50% increase in the standard deduction, raising it to Rs 75,000, and adjusted the tax slabs under the new income tax system. These changes are intended to increase disposable income for salaried individuals and stimulate consumption.

According to Sitharaman, "This will provide relief to about four crore salaried individuals and pensioners." Additionally, the deduction on family pension for pensioners will be increased from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000. In the previous fiscal year, over two-thirds of individual taxpayers opted for the new personal income tax regime, with more than 8.61 crore I-T returns filed in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

The revised tax slabs under the new income tax regime will come into effect from April 1, 2024 (Assessment Year 2025-26). Income up to Rs 3 lakh will remain exempt from income tax under the new system. The proposed tax rates are as follows: 5% for income between Rs 3-7 lakh, 10% for Rs 7-10 lakh, and 15% for Rs 10-12 lakh. The tax rates for income between Rs 12-15 lakh and above Rs 15 lakh will remain unchanged at 20% and 30%, respectively.

Under the current new I-T regime, a 5% tax is applicable on income between Rs 3-6 lakh, 10% for Rs 6-9 lakh, 15% for Rs 9-12 lakh, and 20% for Rs 12-15 lakh. Income above Rs 15 lakh is subject to a 30% tax rate.

BM Education

CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

Double trouble: CBSE considers twice-yearly board exams

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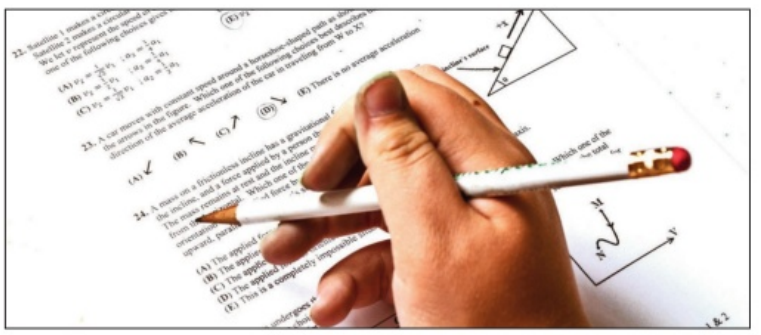

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is currently reviewing the schedule for two rounds of board examinations, as recommended by the new National Curriculum Framework (NCF). The options under consideration include conducting exams in January-February and March-April or holding the second set of exams in June alongside the supplementary or improvement exams. Another possibility being explored is the implementation of a semester system with biannual exams.

Officials have stated that consultations are ongoing, and no final decision has been made yet regarding the timing and format of the proposed twice-yearly board exams. The CBSE has informed the Union Education Ministry that the current system requires more than 150 steps and a minimum of 310 days to conduct board exams for Classes 10 and 12, with at least 55 days needed to administer the two exams.

The challenge for the CBSE lies in determining when and how to replicate this extensive process for a second round of exams. Factors such as the academic calendar, competitive exam schedules, and geographical challenges posed by CBSE schools spread across the country and abroad make the semester system appear less feasible. Additionally, conducting exams before February presents difficulties due to harsh winters in some states.

"The process involves a minimum of 310 days, starting from filling of the list of candidates, centre notifications, release of roll numbers, conduct of practicals, theory exams, result declaration, verification and revaluation. At least 55 days are required to conduct the two exams," the board has informed.

The new NCF, developed by a national steering committee appointed by the Union Government and led by former ISRO chairman K Kasturirangan, aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. It proposes a semester system for Classes 11 and 12 and the option for students to write board exams twice a year. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has emphasised that appearing for board exams twice a year will be optional and not mandatory for students.

Previous attempts to reform board exams include the introduction of the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) for Class 10 in 2009, which was discontinued in 2017. During the COVID-19 pandemic, board exams were temporarily split into two terms. This year, the old format of year-end exams has been reinstated.

High Court notifies govt in Valmiki scam

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The Karnataka High Court has issued a notice to the State Government and other respondents regarding a petition filed by Union Bank of India. The petition sought to transfer the investigation of the alleged scam in the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Justice M Nagaprasanna, presiding over a single-judge bench, has scheduled the matter for further hearing on August 7.

Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the bank in his personal capacity, emphasised the importance of maintaining the integrity of the banking institution. He stated that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted the bank the authority to regulate banking functions and address any errors made by the bank. According to RBI directions, in cases of bank fraud, the bank is required to transfer the investigation to the CBI.

Venkataramani further argued that the involvement of a federal agency is crucial in this case, as many public sector banks have branches throughout the country. If a fraud transcends state boundaries,

Court notes that Attorney General would demonstrate that bank has entrusted the investigation to CBI, and state should follow

it would be unwise to rely on a local investigating agency. He stressed that the investigation's level, competence, equipment, and impartiality would be enhanced by involving a federal agency. Even small domestic bank frauds may have international ramifications, and the bank aims to retain its integrity and avoid being an offender.

Advocate General Sashi Kiran Shetty informed the court that he would file objections to the petition and requested two weeks' time.

The Valmiki case came to light after Chandrasekaran, a Superintendent at the corporation, committed suicide and left a note alleging multi-crore corruption within the organisation. The note named three officials and demanded action against them. Subsequently, B Nagendra, the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Minister, resigned and is currently in the custody of the Enforcement Directorate. A. Rajashekar, Managing Director of the KMVSTDC, filed a complaint on May 29, stating that Rs 94.73 crore was siphoned off from the corporation's account at Union Bank of India through fake signatures on board resolutions. A case has been registered against UBI bank officials at the High Grounds police station, and they have approached the court seeking to quash the offence, which is pending an interim order prohibiting any coercive action.

Gruha Jyoti scheme users to pay additional deposit

Household consumers exceeding free electricity limits face new deposits; interest refund on previous deposits under review

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Consumers who qualify for free electricity under the Gruha Jyoti scheme but have surpassed their allotted units by 10 or more are now required to pay an Additional Security Deposit (ASD). State electricity supply companies have determined the excess usage and incorporated the ASD in the July electricity bills, with each household consumer obligated to pay an additional deposit ranging from Rs 1,000 to Rs 25,000. The refund of interest accrued on previously collected deposits is currently under discussion.

"The electricity supply companies will now calculate the average electricity consumption over 12 months from consumers with electricity connections to determine the security deposit based on the bill amount for two months. Under the Gruha Jyoti scheme, the government initially considered the average annual electricity consumption and provided an additional 10 units of free electricity per month. Consequently, consumers who have utilised this additional free electricity will now be required to pay an additional security deposit (ASD)," an official clarified. The official also mentioned that the electricity supply companies previously collected a security deposit equal to three months' bill amount, but this was reduced to two months' bill amount to alleviate the financial burden on low-income consumers. The new implementation

> **"The responsibility for notifying customers about ASD lies with the respective sub divisions** –Energy Department

applies to household consumers as well as industrial and commercial electricity users. The interest on the deposit will be adjusted in the final bill amount of the respective year as part of a routine process.

In response, the Energy Department stated, "The Additional Security Deposit (ASD) is determined based on the electricity demand of new customers. At the beginning of the next financial year, BESCOM reviews the previous year's average consumption to decide whether the customer needs to pay an additional security deposit or receive a refund if their demand is lower. Interest on the Additional Security Deposit (IOD - Interest On Deposit) will be credited to the customer's account at the end of the first quarter of the new financial year. Under the current Gruha Jyothi Yojana, the interest on the security deposit for customers receiving zero bills is credited to their account. This interest will be adjusted against future electricity charges once the consumer gets a net bill or non-zero bill. The additional security deposit is not a tax or extra charge. It is calculated based on the customer's annual average electricity consumption. Customers will receive interest on this deposit (IOD) at the end of the fiscal year. There are no reasons for higher-than-usual electricity bills in June. If you have a negative amount on your bill under the Gruha Jyothi Yojana, it represents the interest on your additional security deposit provided by BESCOM. This amount will be adjusted against future electricity charges once the consumer gets a net bill or non-zero bill. Customers don't need to pay this negative amount (shown as interest on deposit IOD at the bottom of a zero bill)."

The Energy Department further explained that according to KERC regulations, the additional security deposit is determined based on the annual average electricity consumption. If the average is lower than the demand, BESCOM will refund the security deposit. If the average exceeds the demand, an additional security deposit will be required from the customer. "The responsibility for notifying customers about the additional security deposit lies with the respective subdivisions. Notices are issued by the AEEs of the respective subdivision office, which are computer generated. The newly determined security deposit can be paid online through the BESCOM Mitra mobile app or the official BESCOM website. BESCOM receives government subsidies only for agricultural IP sets and the Gruha Jyothi Yojana, which is paid by the government on behalf of the consumers. All expenditures of ESCOMs will be met only through electricity charges collected from the consumers. For any queries regarding the Additional Security Deposit (ASD), customers can call BESCOM's 24x7 helpline at 1912," said an official.

IN BRIEF

PUC student abducted, escapes in Mysuru

A shocking incident involving the abduction of a pre-university student while waiting for a bus has come to light. The incident, which originally occurred on June 6, is now garnering attention for its appalling details. A group of 2 women and 4 men made the victim, unconscious by spraying chemicals on her while she was waiting at the Jalahalli Cross bus stop to hail a bus to Tumkur. The masked group then abducted her and headed towards Mysuru. The student remained unconscious for a large portion of the journey. When she regained consciousness, she realised the ordeal she had endured but continued to pretend to be unconscious. When the abductors stopped the car near Mysuru, the student escaped and lodged a complaint with the Lashkar Police Station. Based on her complaint, a case has been registered at the Lashkar Police Station. The case has since been transferred to the Peenya Police Station for investigation, as it falls within their jurisdiction. **BMB**

HC grants bail in Kalburgi murder

The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday granted bail to two accused, Vasudev Bhagwan Suryavanshi and Amit Baddi, in the murder case of scholar MM Kalburgi. Justice MG Uma noted that the original theft case involving the two, who had been charged with stealing the two-wheeler used by the shooters in the murder, was resolved years ago. Moreover, only 10 out of 138 witnesses have been examined in the ongoing trial.

The Court observed that the prosecution could not provide a definite timeline for the trial's conclusion. "Apart from the theft charges, there is no prima facie evidence indicating their involvement in the murder case."

Kalburgi was fatally shot by two assailants in Dharwad on August 30, 2015, who then escaped on a motorcycle. **PTI**

K'taka lagging in issue of ID for persons with disabilities

CAG flags slow implementation of Unique ID project as only 46% of disabled have got cards so far

Only 46 per cent of the differently abled persons were issued with Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities (UDID) cards in Karnataka, as of December 2022, according to a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

The report on performance audit on implementation of the Rights of Persons With Disabilities Act, 2016 stated that Karnataka UDID project commenced in April 2019, but the pace of its implementation was slow.

"As of 31 December 2022, only 46 per cent of the differently abled persons were issued with UDID cards in the State," it said.

UDID cards, it noted, helps in tracking the Chief Medical Officer/Medical Authority for assessment of disability, receiving assistance and to know about various schemes for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). It also facilitates monitoring of physical and financial progress of beneficiaries at all levels of hierarchy -- village level to National level.

As per Census 2011, Karnataka has 13.24 lakh PwDs, which is 4.94 per cent of the total PwDs in the country (2.68 crore). It also said the state government delayed notification of the Karnataka Persons with Disability Rules, resulting in delay in implementing of the Act and Rules.

"The Department failed to conduct a comprehensive survey covering all disabilities due to which it did not have a database on the number of persons with various disabilities in the State," it said.

The report also highlighted that due to the absence of a designated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy for special schools by the state government, corporate involvement in enhancing infrastructural facilities is limited to Bengaluru.

"Audit scrutiny revealed that CSR funds for special educational schools were primarily concentrated in Bengaluru with only seven institutes receiving grants amounting to Rs 207.65 crore during 2016-17 to 2021-22.

The department had neither framed any guidelines to ensure equitable distribution of funds across the State nor encouraged corporates to invest in areas outside Bengaluru. This limited the improvement of infrastructure and access to education for differently able individuals," it stated.

The CAG also observed that the department did not possess the data of the beneficiaries who had availed the benefits under various schemes and programmes as the local authorities had not prepared and forwarded it their action plans.

"It was seen that the department did not have a system in place to monitor the mandatory allotment of funds and its utilisation thereon. Hence, even the department could not ascertain whether the stipulated five per cent reservation was being adhered to during the implementing the schemes," it stated. **PTI**

Efforts towards controlling speeding

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Meenakunte Hosur, Kadiganahalli Gate, Sadahalli Gate, and Kannamangala Gate.

Despite the measures taken, the desired reduction in road accidents has not been fully achieved. Consequently, traffic officials, NHAI, and other civic authorities have decided to intensify efforts to control speeding. The International Airport Authority and NHAI have established a speed limit of 80 km/h on this road to enhance safety and prevent loss of life.

To ensure compliance with traffic regulations, staff are being deployed at the police station level to visit vehicle owners' addresses and collect outstanding fines.

Efforts are also being made to prevent repeat offenses and raise awareness within the respective police jurisdictions. In cases of repeat violations, the driving licenses of offenders are being suspended, and legal actions are being taken to bring these cases to court.

Reacting to this, a traffic expert said, "It's clear that while measures like speed limits and automated cameras have made a significant impact on reducing accidents on the International Airport Road, there's still much more that can be done to enhance safety.

Firstly, introducing intelligent traffic management systems that use real-time data to manage traffic flow and predict congestion can greatly improve the efficiency of the road. Implementing better signage and road markings, particularly at high-risk areas, can provide drivers with clearer guidance, reducing confusion and potential accidents."

The expert said it was imperative to expand pedestrian infrastructure. "Constructing overhead pedestrian bridges and ensuring adequate lighting can protect pedestrians and discourage unsafe road crossings. Enhanced enforcement of traffic rules, with more frequent and visible patrolling, will also deter reckless driving," they said.

According to the expert, awareness campaigns that educate drivers on the importance of safe driving practices and the severe consequences of violations can foster a culture of safety. Collaborating with tech companies to deploy advanced vehicle-to-infrastructure communication systems could further enhance safety, allowing vehicles to receive real-time updates on road conditions and hazards.

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I, Minnuangel Thomas d/o Edappilly Kochudevassy Thomas, Flat No: H002, Ground Floor, Brundavanam Block, Amrutha Value Apartments, Nallurahalli, Bengaluru-560066 have changed my name to Mikaelangel Prinsa Thomas Edappilly, aged 32 via affidavit dated 22/07/2024 before notary Yankoba

I, Yogita Kulkarni R/o No.106, Hoysala Vijay Enclave 1, 60 feet road, Bhoopasandra, Rmv 2nd stage, Bengaluru 560094 have changed my name to Yogita Abhay Karanam Affidavit Dt.23/07/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Priti Sujit Joseph R/o Flat No 4097, Towe 4, 8th Main Road, Prestige Willow Tree Apartment, Vidyaranyapura, Blr-97 Changed My Name From Priti to Priti Sujit Joseph for All Future Purposes.

I, SURAJ DILIP KOLE S/O DILIP DADA KOLE R/O 3rd F, FLAT NO 6, NANDANUM-4 ,1ST CRS, JCR LAYOUT, PANATHUR, BENGALURU PIN 560103 KARNATAKA INDIA, THAT SURAJ DILIP KOLE AND KOLE SURAJ DEELIP IS THE NAME OF ONE AND SAME PERSON THAT IS MYSELF.

I, SMRITI SRINANDH KOMRALA D/o Kaveri Komarla Srinandh, R/at No.495, 8th Cross, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore- 560070 have changed my name to SMRTI KOMARLA SRINANDH vide affidavit dated: 23/07/2024 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, Viswanath Chinnavulapalli (Viswanath C) S/o Muni Venkatappa C R/o Flat A-004, A-block, BM Homes Apt, Thubarahalli, Bengaluru 560066 have changed my name to Viswanath Naidu Chinnavulapalli (C Viswanath Naidu) Affidavit Dt.23/07/2024 notary Harisha. G, B'luru

I, Vaishali D/o Jamburajan R/o C-007, Arun Patios, Kenchenahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru 560064 have changed my name to VAISHALI JAMBURAJAN (Vaishali J) affidavit Dt.23/07/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Rajesh Jain S/O, Hajari Mal Bohra R/o No 40 ,flat No-403 , 4th Floor ,pearl Mansion Surveyor Street Basavangudi Bangalore-560004 have changed my name to Rajesh Bohra.

I Sahitya Rajashekhar Reddy R/O #27, 1st Floor, Moinuddin Sherif Mansion, 3rd Cross, Lic Colony, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bangalore - 560011 have changed my name to Sahitya Reddy.

I Prem Prakash S/O, Mr Paras Nath Singh R/o 404, Garuda Palace Apartment Thanisandra Main Road Thirumenahalli Bangalore 560064 have changed my name to Prem Prakash Singh.

I AMIT SHAH S/o, VIJAY SHAH, R/o, A-203, Karle Zenith Apartments, Kempapura Main Road, Nagavara, Bengaluru 560045, have changed my name to AMIT VIJAY SHAH for all purposes.

I Kamal Singh S/o, Sumermal Kathotia R/o 40'kalpana' Nanjappa Road, Shantinagar, Bangalore 560027 have changed my name to Kamal Singh Kathotia for all purposes.

I, Mohamed Khatib Ur Rahaman S/O, Mohamed Kaleemulla R/o No A 401 Saf Snow Drops Apt Bikasipura Kanakapura Road Bengaluru 560111 have changed my name to Mohamed Khatibur Rahman for all purposes.

I ,Chanabasanagouda Patil R/o No-15,3rd main, Ashwath nagar, Shimoga 577204 have changed my name to Channabasanagouda Patil for all purposes

I, Noor Nafeesa Banu W/o B Mohammed Ilyas #56 kg halli blr-45 have changed my name to Noor Nafisa Banu for all purposes.

I, Vellanki Venkata Kanaka Durga W/O, Vellanki Naga Venkata Dutt R/o 83 V Enclave Layout C Cross Hemmigepura Bangalore Pin 560060 have changed my name to Vellanki Kanaka Durga for all purposes.

I Basheer Ahmed Misba S/O, Mohammed Ismail Misbah R/o No 26 C Tahira Kashan 1st Floor Nandidurga Road Jayamahal have changed my name to Basheer Ahmed Misbah.

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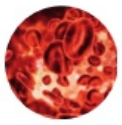

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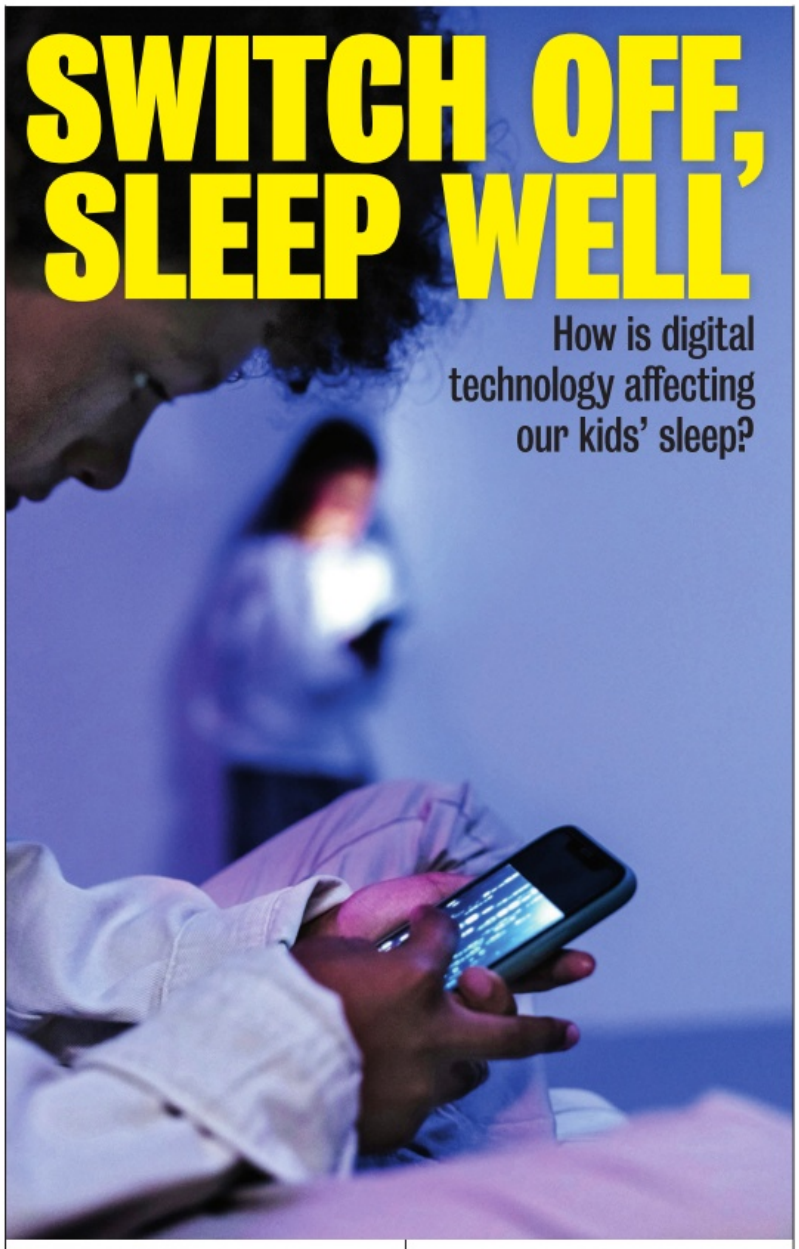
SWITCH OFF, SLEEP WELL

How is digital technology affecting our kids' sleep?



Parents have been worried about their kids' sleep since time immemorial. And for valid reasons — good sleep is an essential part of a healthy childhood.

Sleep is critical for physical growth, but also for many other aspects of brain development, learning and the development of important social skills.

Children observe, experience or are taught things during the day, but they really only 'learn' overnight while they're asleep.

In an increasingly digital world full of ubiquitous devices, the impact of technology on kids' sleep is of particular concern.

More children are using devices, and at an earlier age.

This raises many questions about the costs and benefits of technology for healthy development.

On one hand, parents and carers want children to learn as much as they can, be up-to-date and competent with technology, and be connected in new and meaningful ways with their families and friends.

On the other hand, increased screen time seems to be linked with decreased physical activity, poorer overall health, an increase in mental health and wellbeing concerns and poorer sleep.

Poor sleep has many costs. In the short term, tiredness can lead to irritability, meltdowns and poor concentration, and in the long term it can lead to increased risks for a range of health, social and wellbeing challenges.

It is still not clear exactly how technology can impact kids' sleep, but researchers have some ideas to test out.

What role does technology play in your home?

Technology is not a new visitor to our homes. It has been evolving over time — at least from the advent of artificial lighting to radio, television, gaming consoles and podcasts.

Even more traditional activities such as reading might have sometimes carried on into the night.

Kids' sleep has been a concern of parents right across this period.

Children's sleep can be perplexing because it changes so much from birth through to the teenage years.

The development from the almost 24-hour, anytime sleep of babies, through to regular naps in toddlers, then the end of daytime naps happens at different times for different children.

Children need a lot more sleep than adults do, and getting enough sleep at the right time can be challenging when there are a lot of demands on the time of children and their families.

Children and young people grow up in all sorts of different environments, places and circumstances. They also have their own individual personalities and preferences.

At the same time, very significant global challenges — from pandemics to wars to climate change — will have impacts on their lives.

This means it can be difficult to know if technology is 'good' for a particular child, let alone every child.

Instead, it might be important to first focus on the 'ingredients of life' such as good nutrition, plenty of activity and skills building, strong social relationships and regular and sufficient sleep.

After that, the role of technology in relaxation, learning and connection might be easier to see.

Using technology to support healthy childhoods

Researchers are trying to understand the role of technology in a healthy childhood.

Scientists are studying the way sleep changes across the early years, and the major family and social factors that interact with sleep, so that they can explain to parents and carers what to expect.

They are examining family routines at home in great detail to understand exactly what is happening in the hours before bedtime.

For example, technology could be used as part of 'family time', it could be used alone or with siblings. Parents may find it relaxes their children or alternatively wakes them up.

Researchers are also looking very carefully at the type and timing of light emitted by digital devices used by children, in the context of the rest of their day.

While the light emitted by screens may be a concern, the role of bright artificial lighting in the home and other light sources such as TVs and street lighting also needs to be considered.

Parents and carers also need to think about light during the day: in the home, early education settings or at school. It is possible that some children aren't getting enough light at the right times.

The timing of light sends important signals to our bodies. We expect relatively bright days and dark nights. It is more common now to experience relatively dim days, with little outdoor light, and artificial lighting in the home or from the street extended well after sunset.

How technology can make kids' sleep worse

There are three main theories about the ways technology might make kids' sleep worse.

The first is increased exposure to light in the evening.

Most screens emit light and some devices are held quite close to our eyes.

Our internal body clocks, or circadian rhythms, more or less depend on bright days and dark nights to keep time. Light at night, even in small doses, can surprise this system.

Children have strong body clocks, but are also very sensitive to light.

The type of light emitted by devices, often quite blue light, seems especially powerful in its effects. This can lead to later sleep times, disruption of the body clock and increased risk of health problems.

The second theory is about displacement.

Using technology at night is an additional, and often very engaging, activity.

Spending time on screens makes it harder to fit in dinner, a bath, reading time or a regular bedtime wind-down routine. This can mean that sleep is pushed later just to fit everything else in.

This is hardly a new idea — it's likely today's parents were yesterday's children reading books by torchlight under the covers.

The third theory is about the conflict between the technology-based activity itself and the need to relax and drift off to sleep.

Some digital content can increase attention and focus. Some of it can be distressing, confusing or upsetting.

If this is happening in the hours before bedtime, then it is another signal to delay sleep time.

The challenge here is to measure and understand these emotional aspects of digital content, how it is used and how it is experienced by children.

How to help your kids get a better night's sleep

It's now understood that sleep is just as important as diet and exercise for children's development and wellbeing.

And research has revealed some of the fundamentals of good sleep: a safe and secure bedroom environment, not too hot or cold, not too noisy, and nice and dark is a good starting point.

A regular wake-up time and a regular bedtime routine help set and reinforce our body clocks.

Researchers are also thinking of ways to use technology to help rather than hinder kids' sleep.

For example, technology could include alerts about bedtime and winding down time for children. It could suggest 'pro-sleep' content that isn't going to hype them up or upset them just before they need to fall asleep.

Technology could interact with smart homes and adjust lighting levels to reinforce sleep and wake times automatically.

It could also be used to connect networks of young 'sleep champions' together or it could involve new programs for children to learn, experiment and collaborate in developing better sleep habits.

There's never going to be a one-size-fits-all answer to helping our kids get a better night's sleep but there are things parents can do to help that don't involve ridding their homes of all digital devices.

(By Simon Smith, The University of Queensland, 360info)

All you need to know about...

Type 1 diabetes

Boys are at more risk than girls

Young boys are more at risk of developing Type 1 diabetes (T1D) than girls, finds a study.

It showed that the risk decreases markedly in girls after age 10 years, while the risk in boys stays the same.

Autoantibody

Furthermore, the risk of T1D is significantly higher for boys with a single autoantibody -- proteins produced by the body's immune system that attack other proteins.

This suggests that the male gender could be linked with autoantibody development, indicating the importance of incorporating sex in the assessment of risk, said the team from the University of Exeter in the UK.

Importantly, the study showed that, unlike most autoimmune diseases, male sex is a risk factor for type 1 diabetes (T1D).

This raises the hypothesis that either immune, metabolic, or other differences between sexes may impact risk or progression through stages of T1D.

Study

In this study, the team studied 235,765 relatives of people with T1D. They used computer and statistical modelling to calculate the risk of T1D, stated as an estimated five-year risk for females and males respectively, after adjusting for confounders.

Males were found to have higher autoantibodies (females: 5.0 per cent males: 5.4 per cent).

Males were also more likely to be screened positive for multiple autoantibodies and their chances were also higher in absolute five-year risk of progression to T1D.

Puberty hormones

"The change in risk at around the age of 10 raises the hypothesis that puberty-related hormones may play a role," said the team calling for more research. —IANS

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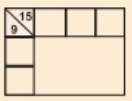
@BangaloreMirror

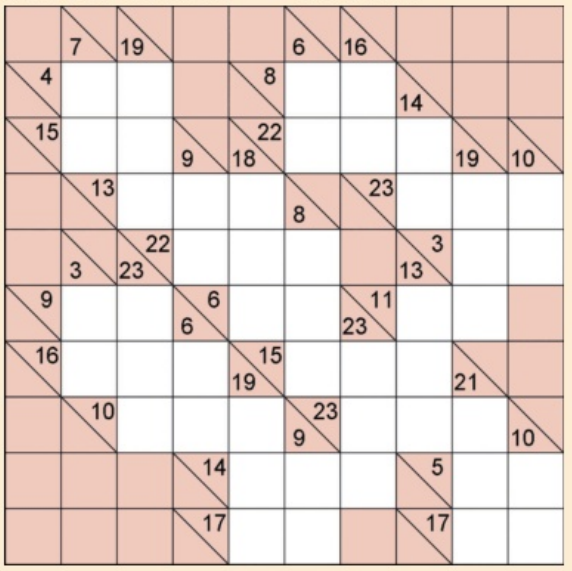
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

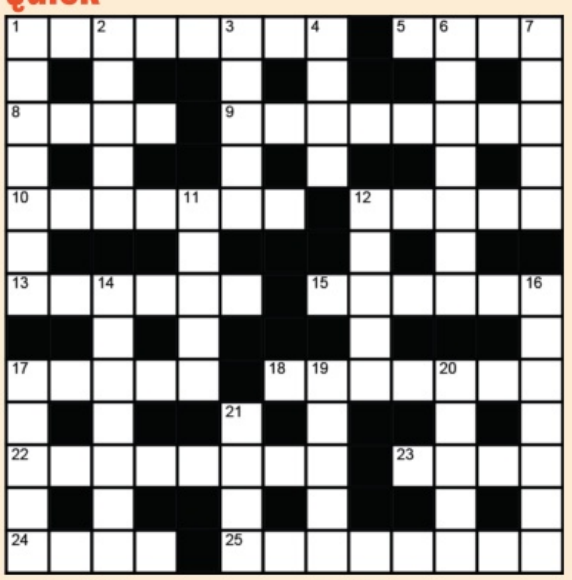


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Air India, Lufthansa, Indigo, etc (8)
5 Samoan Port (4)
8 Truck running on rails (4)
9 Chapati made out of rice (4,4)
10 At a future, unspecified date? (7)
12 Civilian clothes (5)
13 Make or become dirty (6)
15 Beguile or ensnare (6)
17 With much high ground (5)
18 Demurs (7)
22 Carefully argued (8)
23 Musical instrument (4)
24 Ornamental band (4)
25 Performing group (8)

DOWN

1 Certifies validity of or bears witness to (7)
2 Domain of a king (5)
3 Finnish cellphone manufacturer (5)
4 Antitoxins (4)
6 Put forward (7)
7 Proof of innocence (5)
11 Canine (5)
12 Ex-Indian all rounder ___ Prabhakar (5)
14 Disburdens (7)
16 Rate for mail? (7)
17 Male deer (pl.). (5)
19 Dwells or stays–"bed is" crumpled? (5)
20 Morsel of bread (5)
21 This one's __ __ : I'll pay the bill? (2,2)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: E EQUALS H

RWIYEOV LHJ ALHHOBV JI HIY ALXO YEO ALH; QTY, GEOH EO MV ALJO, YEOD SBOLYWD MANBIKO EMV LNNOLBLHRO.

Linemaro

Where is the 'Like' button for that smile?

Mindchow

If you would be known, and not know, vegetate in a village; If you would know, and not be known, live in a city

Joke of the day

My boyfriend gets mad when I use his toothbrush, but I ask you: How else am I meant to get dog poo out of the carpet?

Loop

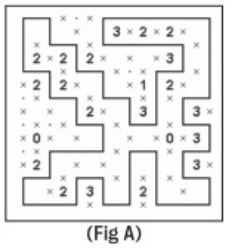
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

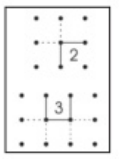
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

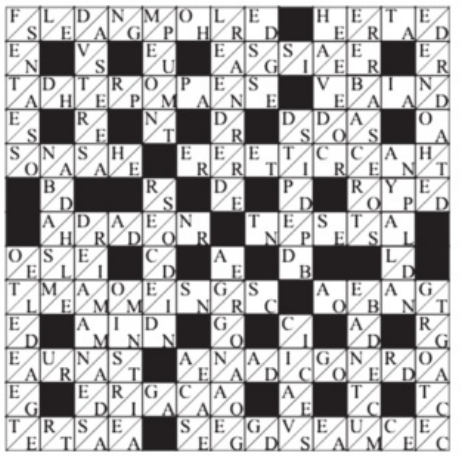


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

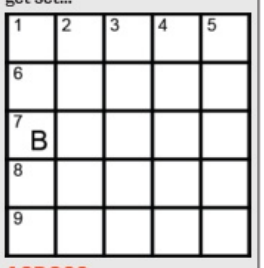
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 B bars; 6 An lee; 7 Bonus; 8 Alien; 9 Tests

DOWN

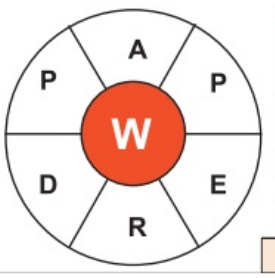
1 Abbas; 2 Alone; 3 Rites; 4 LB nut; 5 Essen

Mensapuzzle

One of the numbers on the right doesn't belong with the others. Which one is the odd number out

13763
14944
16256
16328
17543
18119

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

5				3		8		
	6			4	1			5
			9		2		6	
		6		1			3	
	1						8	
	7			9		5		
	2		4		9			
3			2	6			1	
		5		7				8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 6
4 7 8 9

Medium = 31
2 5 7 8

Hard = 6
2 3 5 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

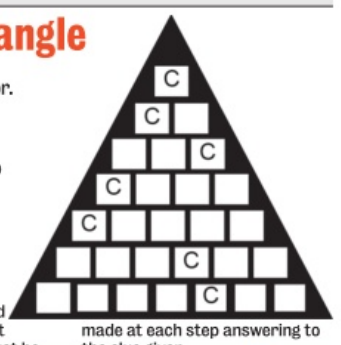
Differences: 1. "Z" is different. 2. Man is thinner. 3. TV dial is moved. 4. Collar is missing. 5. TV screen is different. 6. Lampshade is different.

Riddler

Mix me up for beauty in halls and theatres Shuffled, I am an unelected leader Jumble me, and we become roof leak beaters Scrambled, we're long-tailed, omnivorous eaters I am an entertainment craving feeder What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Third letter
2 Common Era, abbr.
3 PC panic button
4 Prompts
5 Heals
6 Throw a lifeline to
7 Loses weight

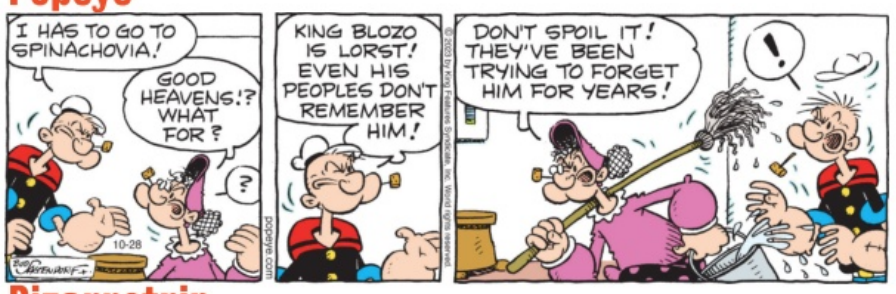


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


I HAS TO GO TO SPINACHOVIA!
GOOD HEAVENS!? WHAT FOR?
?
KING BLOZO IS LORST! EVEN HIS PEOPLES DON'T REMEMBER HIM!
DON'T SPOIL IT! THEY'VE BEEN TRYING TO FORGET HIM FOR YEARS!
!
10-28
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

LET'S STRAIGHTEN UP THOSE LINES, PEOPLE!
DRUMS ALONG THE SIDELINES
OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL
4-19
© 2024 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

THAT'S IT! I QUIT! MY MOTHER DIDN'T RAISE ME TO BE FACIAL HAIR! I'M A CATERPILLAR!
HEY!
DON'T GIVE ME NO LIP! I'M OUTTA HERE!
THAT'S ONE UNRULY MUSTACHE.
mutts.com

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are likely to be busy with your kids' education and career. You may hear some good news regarding their academics. However, love birds are advised to be patient in their relationships. Investors should avoid risky assets as they might convert into losses. It is advised to practice meditation, yoga, or chant some mantras to navigate through this typical situation.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you might experience dissatisfaction and not see the results of your hard work, which can lead to disappointment and upset you. You are advised to read documents carefully before signing any contracts or papers. Investment in assets is also possible, but you should follow your intuition before making investments in fixed assets. Overwork may affect your domestic life, causing you to arrive late at family or social events.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be busy with social gatherings and family occasions, which could expand your network. You may also plan a short work-related trip. Disputes between siblings or friends may be resolved now. Your colleagues are likely to cooperate with you to complete a difficult project, and you are likely to complete all tasks with self-confidence. You are advised to be patient when interacting with others.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may implement some new plans in your family business, which will pay off in terms of gains in the near future. You may also be busy with family or social gatherings. You might spend money on creative or artistic items to renovate your house, which could increase your social status. Be careful with teeth, ear, eye, nose, and skin issues today.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, bringing happiness around you, which can help you enjoy your daily work. Your vitality may help you make tough decisions, increasing your profits in the near future. You may plan a short work-related trip. Colleagues might support you in completing your work on time. Students may find themselves more focused on their studies. You are advised to control your eating habits to avoid stomach issues.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel dull, and sleeplessness may affect your mental and physical health. You might also be upset due to a family member's health issues. Spending on worthless items may affect your savings. You could be a victim of conspiracy, so keep an eye on your opponents.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, your past investments may yield good profits. You may get good results with little effort, and your obstacles may fade away. Your financial status may improve, and new sources of income could appear. Couples might hear good news regarding kids. Success may come easily after a little effort.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you are likely to meet someone who can help you expect positive growth in your business or work. Your destiny may favour you, converting losses into profits. Your financial health may be on track now. Love birds are advised to make important decisions regarding marriage. Singles may find their soul mate.

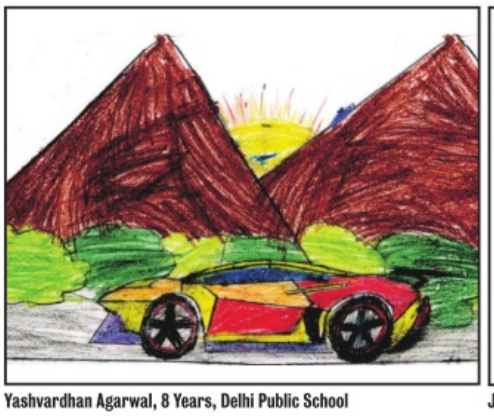
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, situations are under control. You are blessed by Jupiter and may expect to receive an important position or post at work. You might be inclined towards religion and mythology. Feeling stronger in your thoughts may make you more confident in your work. You may also plan a short trip.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel unhappy and dull, which could affect your work. Projects may be delayed, affecting your prestige in professional and domestic life. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or reckless driving. Love birds might experience a breakup. Job seekers may be disappointed in their job search.

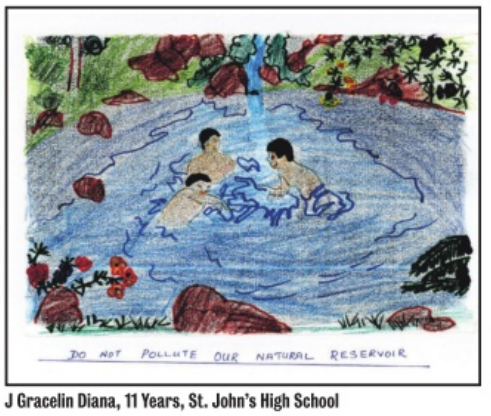
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may perform your best at work, fostering good bonding with your boss and possibly receiving new responsibilities or promotions. Chronic health issues may be cured. You might receive good incentives for your work. Disputes with siblings may be resolved. Job seekers might find new employment.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel healthy, and old diseases might be cured. You may hear some good news from a relative. You could perform well at work, receiving help from colleagues on critical projects. Developing faith in your subordinates may increase your prestige in society. You may also hear good news regarding a legal matter.

KIDZONE



Yashvardhan Agarwal, 8 Years, Delhi Public School



J Gracelin Diana, 11 Years, St. John's High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER The word "star" Explanation: Each of the first four lines is a clue to an anagram of "star". The last line is a clue to the word itself. line 1 – arts (works of art (e.g. musical compositions) found in concert halls and theatres) line 2 – tsar ((= czar) an emperor or king) line 3 – tars (rooting tar; fixes roof leaks) line 4 – rats (rats have long tails and eat whatever they can find) line 5 – star (e.g. a movie star, satisfying one's craving for entertainment)

FAST FIVE

B	A	R	B	S
A	N	E	L	E
B	O	S	U	N
A	L	I	N	E
S	E	T	T	S

SOLVE IN 1M
√(1/9+8/9)^10=
√(9/9)^2=^10
√(1)^10=
1

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
1494; The digits in the others numbers total 20

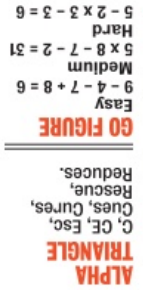
QUOTE UNCODE
Clothes and manners do not make the man; but, when he is made, they greatly improve his appearance.

BULL'S EYE WRAPPED, awed, draw, drew, wear, pawed, wade, ward, wrap, ware, warp, warped,

SUDOKU

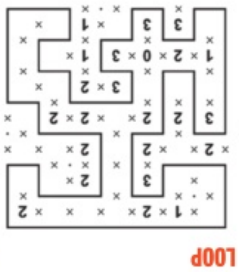
5	4	1	6	3	7	8	9	2
2	6	9	8	4	1	3	7	5
7	3	8	9	5	2	1	6	4
4	5	6	7	1	8	2	3	9
9	1	3	5	2	4	7	8	6
8	7	2	3	9	6	5	4	1
1	2	7	4	8	9	6	5	3
3	8	4	2	6	5	9	1	7
6	9	5	1	7	3	4	2	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE



GO FIGURE
Easy
9 – 4 – 7 + 8 = 6
Medium
5 x 8 – 7 – 2 = 31
Hard
5 – 2 x 3 – 3 = 6

LOOP



KAKURO

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 # No Taylor Ryan Reynolds has put an end to speculations surrounding Taylor Swift's potential cameo in the upcoming Marvel Studios film 'Deadpool and Wolverine,' affirming definitively that the singer will not be appearing in the movie

Mom & daughter

Actor Priyanka Chopra, who is currently shooting her next movie 'Bluff,' recently shared a glimpse of homemade food made by her mother.

Taking to her Instagram account on Tuesday, Priyanka shared a picture showing a bowl of palak paneer and a plate of naan. Along with the picture, the 'Barfi' actor wrote, "When you come home to mom after a long day's shoot," followed by a red-heart eye emoji, and tagged her mother @drmadhuakhourichopra.

Priyanka recently spent time on a cruise in Queensland, Australia, where she enjoyed whale watching with her mother Madhu Chopra and daughter Malti Marie.

The 'Desi Girl' posted a bunch of pictures and videos on Instagram and wrote, "Whale watching made so much fun and easy. Thank you @queensland and @seaworldcruises. Special shout out to Kaelan and Lauren!."

The mother-daughter duo could be seen enjoying watching whales and posing for cameras on the cruise. Priyanka was seen donning a purple shirt teamed with matching pants, a black t-shirt and crop top. Malti was dressed in a flowery jacket and sported two ponies. **— ANI**

NO PREJUDICE

Sonam sets out to promote acceptance in stylish way

Actress and fashion icon Sonam Kapoor has shared a glimpse of her new photoshoot for a magazine, promoting acceptance and fighting against prejudices.

Sonam recently shot for a magazine and can be seen wearing a white off-shoulder gown with matching bell shaped sleeves. The actress opted for minimal makeup and accessorised the outfit with big, colourful ethnic jhumkas.

The magazine has captioned the post with Sonam's quote: "In a society where traditional views are still prevalent, taking a stand can be controversial, but I believe it's essential to use whatever platform I have to promote acceptance and fight against prejudices - Sonam A Kapoor."

Sonam, the daughter of actor Anil Kapoor, started her career as an assistant director with filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Black'.

The actress made her acting debut with the 2007 romantic drama 'Saawariya', alongside Ranbir Kapoor. Produced and directed by Bhansali, the film was based on Fyodor Dostoevsky's 1848 short story White Nights. Sonam has featured in movies like 'Delhi-6', 'I Hate Luv Storys', 'Mausam', 'Raanjhanaa', and 'Prem Ratan Dhan Payo'.

In 2016, she essayed the role of Neerja Bhanot in the biographical thriller film 'Neerja', directed by Ram Madhvani and written by Saiwyn Quadras and Sanyuktha Chawla Shaikh. The movie also featured Shekhar Ravjiani, Shabana Azmi, Yogendra Tiku, Kavi Shastri, and Jim Sarbh in pivotal roles.

'Neerja' revolved around the real-life event of the attempted hijacking of Pan Am Flight 73 in Karachi, Pakistan, by the Libyan-backed Abu Nidal Organisation on September 5, 1986.

Sonam also appeared in movies like 'Pad Man', 'Veere Di Wedding', 'Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga', 'Sanju', and 'Blind'.

On the personal front, Sonam is married to businessman Anand Ahuja. The couple has a son named Vayu. **—ETimes**

Parallel lines meet in this unique tale

Director Harshapriya deserves a pat on the back for handling the megaphone for Hejjaru which is billed as one of the few movies made on the concept of parallel lives that face similar incidents in different time periods. The director, apart from selecting a different and unique concept, has ensured his film has all elements such as sentiment, romance, action.

The movie begins with a police constable of Hejjaru Police Station getting killed by a speeding truck while chasing an accused escaping from the police station in 1965. A similar incident takes place in 1995. Rajaram (Gopal Krishna Deshpande), the son of a constable who was killed in 1965, visits Hejjaru Police Station requesting to find the killer of his lover Sita. He comes to know that Bhagat (Bhagat Alva), the son of Savithri (Aruna Balraj), a nurse, has also lost his father in a similar accident at the same place. He comes to know that Bhagat is in love with Janaki (Shwetha D'Souza) and is ready to do anything for her. Meanwhile, Bhupathi (Vinod Bharathi), a money lender, becomes a villain for Janaki. Bhagat eliminates Bhupathi. Rajaram meets Bhagat and predicts that the latter will lose his lover Janaki and mother Savithri. What happens to Bhagat and Rajaram and who kills Janaki is what Hejjaru is all about.

HEJJARU
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Harshapriya
- **ACTORS** Bhagat Alva, Shwetha D'Souza, Gopal Krishna Deshpande, Naveen Krishna, Aruna Balraj
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **DURATION** 126 minutes

As far as the performances of actors are concerned, Bhagat Alva has tried his best to showcase his acting skills in action scenes but he has to hone his skills to excel in sentiments, romance, and dance. His dialogue delivery is good but gestures are not up to the mark. Shwetha D'Souza looks good but has no scope to prove her acting skills. Gopal Krishna Deshpande has acted well. Naveen Krishna, Muniraju, and Vinod Bharathi are convincing villains. Aruna Balaraj, as an affectionate and concerned mother, has acted well.

Among the songs – Ene Sikthu Malli Ninge – is good. It is sung by Vijaya Prakash and music is composed by Poornachandra Tejaswi.

The minus point of the movie are its gory scenes.

It is worth a watch for those who like a twist in their tales. **— Y Maheswara Reddy**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Leading lady

Kannada movie Firefly has been creating a buzz since it went on floors in June 2023. The movie is bankrolled by Dr Shivarajkumar's daughter Niveditha. Now, the Firefly team has released a poster revealing the name of the heroine. Rachana Inder is paired opposite Vamshi Krishna who has directed the movie apart from playing the lead.

The movie, bankrolled under the Shri Mutthu Cine Enterprises banner, is the maiden movie for Vamshi Krishna as a full-fledged hero.

Rachana Inder is known for movies such as Love Mocktail, Harikathe Alla Girikathe, Triple Riding, and Not Out. "I play Neha who enjoys life, does not think or worry about the future, and loves to live in the present. I watched a few clips of the movie and it looks like an out and out entertainer. Niveditha Shiva Rajkumar has been doing an excellent job as a producer. She is the backbone for the Firefly team. Director Vamshi has done a good job. I am waiting to watch this movie which is scheduled to arrive in theaters during Deepavali," says Rachana.

The strength of Rachana is dialogue delivery and her ability to enter into the skin of the character. The movie also features Sudharani, Achyuth Kuamr, and Seethal Shetty. Charan Raj has scored music while Abhilash Kalathi has worked as cinematographer and Raghu Niduvali wrote dialogues for this movie. Jay Ram worked as co-director for Firefly.

Song released

Many producers have launched their sons as heroes in Sandalwood and some have succeeded. Bhargav Krishna has joined the list of newcomers who want to establish themselves as actors. Bhargav plays the lead in Om Shivam that is bankrolled by his father Krishna KS.

A function was organised at Kalavidara Sangha on Saturday to release a song of the movie. Bhargav's grandparents released the song and blessed him.

On the occasion, producer Krishna said he was impressed when director Alwin narrated the script to him. "I asked the director to look for a hero but he told me that my son suits the role. The shooting of the movie is completed and arrangements are being made to release it next month," said Krishna.

Om Shivam is the second movie for director Alwin. Prior to this, he handled the megaphone for Raj Bahaddur. "Om Shivam is a love story and it has all the elements to entertain the audiences. I was looking for a 21-year-old to play the lead in the movie. I selected Bhargav and he did not disappoint me. The movie has four songs and action sequences. I want to thank all those who cooperated with me," the director said.